

Ecuadorean president held at base

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador (R) — Ecuadorean President Leon Febres Cordero was seized at an air force base close to this port city Friday after a burst of gunfire which wounded eight people, local radio reports said. Radio Sucre said the president was seized shortly after arriving at the air base of Taura, 25 kilometres south east of Guayaquil, to receive a military award. The radio said eight people were wounded when an unidentified person opened fire with a machine gun during the award ceremony. It said Febres Cordero, a tough right-winger who has ruled Ecuador since August 1984, dove to the floor and apparently escaped injury. The radio gave no details of what happened after the attack but said the president was apparently being held at the base.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جordan تايمز يومية سياسية независимая عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية الراية

Volume 12 Number 3376

AMMAN, SATURDAY JANUARY 17, 1987, JUMADI AL AWWAL 17, 1408

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Regent condoles Ghassab family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Friday attended the funeral of the late Atallah Ghassab, a retired army major general, and offered condolences to his family. Also attending the funeral were Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid and Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb.

Beirut gunmen fire at Romanian envoy

BEIRUT (R) — Gunmen opened fire Friday on the car of the Romanian ambassador to Lebanon on the road to Beirut airport in Muslim-controlled west Beirut, police said. They said it was not clear whether the gunmen were trying to kidnap or kill the envoy, Florea Chiu, who escaped unharmed. The airport road passes through mainly Shi'ite southern suburbs near the Bourj Al Barajneh refugee camp where the Shi'ite Amal militia has been battling Palestinian commandos.

Kuwaiti official welcomes U.N. force in Gulf

KUWAIT (R) — The head of Kuwait's oil fleet, which now runs a gauntlet of Iranian missile fire in the Gulf, has condemned attacks on civilian ships as cowardly and vowed to keep the country's oil lifeline open. Abdul Fatah Al Badr, chairman of the state-owned Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC), also told Reuters he would welcome a U.N. naval peacekeeping force in the waterway.

Israel requests \$3b in U.S. aid

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel Friday asked the United States for \$3 billion in aid in the next fiscal year, Israel Radio reported. It said Finance Minister Moshe Nissim submitted the request at a meeting with U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering, asking for \$1.2 billion in economic support and \$1.8 billion in military aid.

U.S., Soviets discuss format of arms talks

GENEVA (R) — U.S. and Soviet negotiators met informally in groups here Friday to discuss the pattern of future meetings in resumed talks on curbing nuclear and space arms, officials on both sides said. A U.S. official said the delegates to the Geneva arms talks discussed "any possible restructuring of the kind of meetings, the format and that sort of thing" but gave no details.

Chad reports Libyan raids in north

ABIDJAN (R) — Libya's air force resumed bombing raids in northern Chad Friday morning, attacking the towns of Fada, Wour and Zouar, official Chad Radio reported. The radio, monitored in Abidjan, said a small girl was killed and two women seriously wounded in the attack on the north eastern oasis town of Fada, which Chad says it captured from Libyan troops earlier this month.

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King urges active Italian role in Mideast peace

Italy looks favourably on Jordan's development plan

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

ROME — His Majesty King Hussein said Friday that Jordan looked forward to Italy's active role in the effort to contain the negative impact of economic problems in the Middle East, and help achieve peace and stability in the region.

In a speech at a luncheon hosted by Italian Premier Bettino Craxi, the King praised Italy's initiatives within the European Community towards achieving peace in the area.

The King later held a round of official talks with the Italian premier during which they discussed Jordan's five-year development plan for the occupied Arab territories and bilateral relations.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein and

Israel proposes six-month trial ceasefire; Lebanon dismisses offer

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Israel has proposed a six-month ceasefire in South Lebanon to pave the way for a permanent peace.

Ambassador Johanan Bein, Israel's deputy chief U.N. delegate, told the U.N. Security Council that his government was ready to consider eliminating a security zone it has maintained for nearly nine years on the Lebanese side of the border.

Bein told the Security Council that Israel was "willing to negotiate and cooperate with the government of Lebanon or any other credible partner."

"Israel proposes that the efforts directed towards a solution be based on the acceptance of the principles of trial periods and a stage-by-stage approach beginning with an immediate and total ceasefire in the entire area for a period of at least six months."

He said a permanent solution could then be negotiated based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The resolutions, respectively adopted after the 1967 and 1973 Middle East wars, call for

responsibility for parts of the scheme.

Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Qasem, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Foreign Minister Taher Masri held separate talks with Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti and Defence Minister Giovanni Spadolini.

Italy had already expressed support for plans by Jordan to develop the economy of the Israeli-occupied territories with an injection of foreign aid.

Italian President Francesco Cossiga told the King at a dinner on Thursday night that Italy saw the billion-dollar development plan to develop the area "with positive favour."

The King, who arrived in Rome for a three-day state visit on Thursday, had earlier spent 90 minutes with Mr. Cossiga in which he gave a detailed analysis of the latest developments in the Middle East and outlined the development plan.

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Arab youth continue attacks in West Bank

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli troops have dispersed attacking Palestinian youths who threw stones at an Israeli government education office and at an Israeli bus, the radio said.

The report said the clash occurred in the Balata refugee camp on the outskirts of the city of Nablus, during which the Palestinians unfurled the Palestinian flag.

In other incidents Thursday in

Rabat: Some states trying to sabotage OIC summit

RABAT (R) — Morocco has accused certain states of trying to sabotage the Islamic summit conference due to open in Kuwait on Jan. 26, the Moroccan news agency MAP reported Friday.

It said Mohammad Tazi, director of Arab and Islamic affairs at the Foreign Ministry, told Islamic diplomats that some states "aimed to sabotage the meeting and divert it from essential problems concerning all Muslims."

He singled out Syria, saying that the role of Damascus in Arab and Islamic affairs had become "suspect."

Syria broke relations with Morocco last July when King Hassan held talks with then-Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Mr. Tazi said Morocco would attend the summit, the fifth to be held by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), but did not say at that level it would represent.

King Hassan is current OIC chairman, having presided at the last summit held in Casablanca in January 1984.

Mr. Tazi "deplored that the

spirit of Islamic solidarity is not shared by all members of the organisation since one or two of them are striving to hinder it by bringing up questions which are unrelated to the organisation," the agency said.

In Belgrade, Yugoslavia, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati Friday confirmed Iran will not attend the Islamic summit.

Mr. Velayati, on a visit to Yugoslavia, told a news conference Iran would shun the OIC summit in Kuwait because of the venue.

"Kuwait is extending unlimited military and other support to Iraqi aggressors (in the Gulf war)," Mr. Velayati said.

Kuwait has reaffirmed its hope that Iran will attend an Islamic summit, the Kuwait News Agency KUNA said Thursday.

KUNA said Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah sent a message to Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati Thursday briefing him on preparations for the three-day talks and saying Tehran's participation would be welcome.

Khatib returns after talks on ending camps war

RAMTHA (Agencies) — Information Minister Mohammad Al Khazib returned home on Friday after representing Jordan in contacts made in Beirut and Damascus by a seven-man Arab League committee to end the "camps war" in Lebanon.

The 15-0 vote came amid growing concern by troop contributors and council members over attacks on the peacekeepers by Israeli forces and various Lebanese militias.

Irish Ambassador Robert McDonald, whose country supplies a 700-man contingent to the force, deplored as a "particularly irresponsible act" the killing last weekend of an Irish soldier whose position was hit by a round fired by an Israeli tank.

(Continued on page 4)

Iraqi forces repel 2-pronged offensive; raid Iranian towns

BAHRAYN (Agencies) — Iraqi forces Friday stalled a two-pronged Iranian offensive on battlefields 450 kilometres apart as both sides in the Gulf war reported continued fierce fighting and mounting casualties.

An Iranian surface-to-surface missile, the fourth to hit Baghdad in a week, killed or wounded several people Friday and Iraqi warplanes raided Iranian towns.

As with previous missile strikes on the Iraqi capital, a military spokesman gave no figure for casualties but said the attack damaged houses and shops.

Residents saved ambulances and fire trucks rushing to the scene of the blast, which sent up huge clouds of smoke and dust and was heard over a 15-kilometre radius of the city.

Iraqi warplanes again raided the Iranian towns of Hamadan and Qom Friday, the spokesman said. Ten planes also hit the western Iranian town of Islamabad-e-Gharb, "turning it to rubble."

The spokesman said several bridges were knocked out in Hamadan and the jets "rained Qom with a hail of bombs" which found their targets.

Fighter bombers also attacked a railway station at the town of Arak, 240 kilometres south west of Tehran, which the spokesman said was used to ferry troops to the war front.

Iraqi warplanes "accurately and effectively" hit a large naval target, Baghdad's term for an oil tanker or merchant ship, off the Iranian coast at 1145 GMT, a spokesman said.

It was the fifth attack on Gulf shipping claimed by Iraq in a week.

Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nassef Al Jassem told the official Iraqi News Agency INA that Iran was issuing false statements containing "illusory figures" of Iraqi losses.

He said this was the result of heavy losses suffered by the Iranians in fighting east of Basra and because their plan to occupy the southern city of Basra had failed.

Baghdad communiques said Iraqi forces were still fighting fiercely with Iranian invaders east of Basra, with the Third Army Corps trying to dislodge them from footholds gained in a

week-long assault.

They said the Iranians had suffered very heavy losses in "hopeless" attempts to cling on to areas seized.

On the central war front, an attack launched by Iran in mountainous country east of Baghdad on Tuesday night had failed to achieve its targets, Iraqi spokesman said.

They said the last of several enemy thrusts was thrown back Thursday night with Iranian losses of at least 500 killed or wounded.

A high command communiqué said forces defending Basra repelled many Iranian attacks on Iraq's "fortified" defensive line south of the Fish Lake to the west towards the Shatt Al Arab waterway.

It said Iraqi warplanes flew 287 sorties and helicopter gunships 222 combat missions Friday against Iranian targets and troop positions.

One warplane was shot down, it said, raising the total of Iraqi planes lost since Iran launched its offensive a week ago to eight.

Nine civilians were killed and 63 wounded by Iranian shelling of Basra and in air raids on two

northern towns, it said.

Ninety-nine civilians have been reported killed and 562 injured in Iranian air and artillery attacks in the past week, not including casualties from the missile attacks on Baghdad for which no figures have been issued.

In Washington, U.S. military officials estimated Friday a total of 40,000 Iranian and 10,000 Iraqi troops have been killed or wounded in fighting around Basra in the Gulf war since Dec. 24.

"The Iranian dead and wounded outnumber Iraqi casualties by about four to one. We estimate that close to 20,000 Iranians have died and another 20,000 have been wounded," one of the officials, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters.

He said U.S. intelligence estimated 10,000 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded defending the Iraqi city of Basra on the southern front. He could give no breakdown on killed and wounded.

"The casualty figures are as close as we can estimate now, but I can tell you they have been

(Continued on page 4)

Jordan supports call for Security Council meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has expressed support for a call by United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar for a special meeting of the U.N. Security Council at the foreign ministers level to discuss the Iran-Iraq war.

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry in Amman said the Jordanian government has received with appreciation and interest the secretary-general's proposal.

"Jordan welcomes this idea and considers it as a manifestation of a high level of concern over the Gulf conflict, and announces its total backing for the United Nations to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 582 regarding the Gulf war," the spokesman said.

The Foreign Ministry later cabled U.N. permanent representative at the United Nations in New York requesting him to convey this view to Mr. Perez de Cuellar.

Later Thursday, Acting Foreign Minister Thounan Hindawi met in his office with Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Ghafel Jassem Hussein. The ambassador informed the minister on the latest situation at the warfront and the successes being achieved there by the Iraqi Armed Forces.

In Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a temporary member of the United Nations Security Council, also backed the call by the secretary-general.

The Emirates News Agency WAM quoted Ya'qub Al Kindi, foreign affairs director at the Foreign Ministry, as saying the UAE supported any effort to stop the war, through the U.N. Security Council, the Organisation of Islamic Conference or the Non-Aligned Movement.

Chinese party leader resigns; Zhao takes over as acting boss

PEKING (R) — Chinese Communist Party chief Hu Yaobang resigned Friday after admitting making political "mistakes" and Premier Zhao Ziyang was named as acting party chief in his place, the official New China News Agency reported.

There had been reports for several days that Mr. Hu was in political trouble for having failed to control large-scale demonstrations last month during which students called for more democracy and freedom of speech.

The agency said an enlarged meeting of the ruling politburo had been held Friday.

"At the meeting, comrade Hu

Yaobang made a self-criticism of his mistakes on major issues of political principles in violation of the party's principle of collective leadership during his tenure," it said.

"Participants in the meeting carried in full by the agency, said Mr. Hu, 72 this year, would retain his posts as member of the politburo and of the party's Central Committee.

McFarlane repeats Reagan approval of Iran arms sales

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan's former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane Friday repeated his contention that Mr. Reagan gave advance approval for shipments of U.S. arms to Iran.

He said Mr. Reagan gave the go-ahead in early August 1985 despite opposition from Secretary of State George Shultz and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan has said Mr. Reagan only gave retroactive approval to the arms sales, in October 1985, after being informed by aides that they had already taken place.

Mr. McFarlane, testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Friday in open session, also said that before he resigned from the White House in December 1985, the secret Iran initiative "was taking on the focus,

a priority on securing the release" of American hostages in Lebanon.

He said Mr. Reagan, in a telephone call to him, authorised the arms sales by Israel, with those arms to be replaced later by the United States.

"I said to him: Mr. President, as you know, your secretaries of state and defense are opposed to this. (Mr. Reagan said) 'yes, I understand that,' and provided his own explanation for the basis for his decision," Mr. McFarlane said.

Mr. Reagan has said the initiative was designed to re-establish a relationship with strategically important Iran, help end the Iran-Iraq war, stop Iranian support for terrorism and help free American hostages in Lebanon.

Mr. McFarlane Friday strongly defended the arms sales, saying it would have been irresponsible for the United States not to reach out to Iranian moderates.

Islamic Jihad threatens Kuwait with attacks if OIC summit held

BEIRUT (AP) — The pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad organisation Friday threatened terrorist attacks against Kuwait if a summit conference of Islamic nations is held in the Gulf Arab country this month.

The threat was made in a type-written statement delivered to a Western news agency in west Beirut along with a picture of American hostage Terry Anderson, who was kidnapped on March 16, 1985.

Islamic Jihad, or Islamic holy war, claims to hold Anderson, educator Thomas Sutherland and at least three Frenchmen hostage.

The Arabic language statement made no reference to Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite, who arrived in Beirut Monday in a renewed bid to free U.S. and other foreign captives held in Lebanon.

"We warn all that in case this summit is held, we might be compelled to stage a negative action from which the loss will cover all and the biggest loser will be Kuwait: The government, officials and institutions," the statement said.

The summit is scheduled for Jan. 26 in Kuwait. Iran has declared it will boycott the conference, charging Kuwait was biased in favour of Iraq in the 6-year-old Gulf war with Iran.

Islamic Jihad said it welcomed in principle any Islamic summit that would "unite the Muslims" and discuss their affairs.

"It is absurd to hold this summit in Kuwait at this time cannot possibly mean that it will be for discussing the affairs of the Mus-

lim nation," the statement said. The statement was considered authentic because it was accompanied by Anderson's photo.

Islamic Jihad began sending photos of hostages with its statements last year to signify they were genuine.

The statement also attacked Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The statement also criticised the participation of Lebanon's Falangist President, Amin Gemayel, "who came to office on Israeli tanks" during Israel's 1982 invasion.

The statement charged that U.S. State Department envoy Richard Murphy's recent tour of the Middle East was partly designed to "coordinate agenda topics of the Islamic summit... in Kuwait."

"It is absurd to hold this summit in Kuwait, which pretends to be Muslim while it holds in its jails those who stood up and struggled

for the Muslims' glory, the humiliation of the arrogant ones and the removal of American and French hegemony," the statement said.

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That appeared to be a reference to the 17 people imprisoned in Kuwait for bombing the U.S. and French embassies there Dec. 12, 1983.

Their release has been Islamic Jihad's main demand for freeing the American hostages.

"How does Kuwait permit itself to invite the Muslims to convene a summit to discuss their affairs while it carries out the orders of the great Satan, America, the source of the Muslims' plight and crises," the statement said.

It was released on the fifth day of Mr. Waite's latest visit to Beirut.

He was meeting with Lebanon's Prime Minister Rashid Karami when the white envelope containing the statement and Anderson's black-and-white photograph was delivered.

Anderson's picture was similar to one released by Islamic Jihad on Nov. 15.

The lack of any reference in the statement to Mr. Waite appeared to be another setback for his latest mission.

Syria involved in U.S.-Iran arms deal, paper says

CAIRO (R) — Al Ahram newspaper has said that Syria helped Israel in the secret U.S. arms deal with Iran.

In a front-page editorial in an early edition of Friday's newspaper, the daily said: "Egypt has proof that Syria offered Israel facilities to help ship U.S. arms to Iran."

The attack on Syria by the newspaper, which often reflects government views, was triggered by reports here that Syria will seek the expulsion of Egypt from the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) at this month's meeting in Kuwait, which Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is scheduled to attend.

Syria, along with most Arab states, severed diplomatic ties with Egypt after signing a peace treaty with Israel in 1979. Egypt's membership in the Arab League was also frozen and it was expelled from the OIC, but was readmitted in 1984.

After Mr. Mubarak came to power in 1981 he ordered state-owned publications to stop attacks on other Arab countries, mainly Libya and Syria.

Al Ahram's editor-in-chief Ibrahim Nafa'a said in the editorial that he has learned that Egypt has "run out of patience" and will retaliate against Syria by publicising information "that will make the Syrian regime proud."

The issue of trading the Beirut hostages for arms came when the Americans wanted to test the influence of Ghorbanifar, who in turn wanted to see how serious Washington was about commencing a dialogue with the moderates of Tehran, said Mr. Khashoggi.

According to the Iranian merchant, the Tehran leadership was divided into moderates led by Ayatollah Hussein Ali Montazeri, extremists comprising Revolutionary Guards commanders, and a middle-of-the-road group under Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Reponding to a question, Mr. Khashoggi said the whole affair at the start had nothing to do with arms or the American hostages that Washington has been trying to release from captivity in Lebanon.

The businessman did not say when his mission took place or give the name of the official, apparently a leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), who he said had asked him to meet the Israeli prime minister.

"We spoke together on the basis that the two sides (Israel and the PLO) should recognise each other," he said, adding that it was planned that such an agreement should be placed in a Swiss bank for safe keeping.

He spoke warmly of Peres, who is now foreign minister under his power-sharing agreement with Likud leader Yitzhak Shamir, and said he was the only Israeli politician who could hand back occupied Arab territories.

"The rest of them are frauds,"

Mr. Khashoggi said. "Peres is the only man left for us in the whole of Israel."

French police seize Khashoggi planes; businessman describes role in Irangate

PARIS (R) — French authorities, acting on requests from U.S. and British companies, have seized two airliners belonging to Saudi Arabian businessman Adnan Khashoggi, police said Friday.

They said DC-9 and a DC-8, both registered in the Cayman Islands, were seized at Le Bourget Airport on Jan. 5 and 14, respectively.

The seizures were made at the request of U.S. company and a British press group, police said, but declined to identify them further.

Mr. Khashoggi, who used to describe himself as the world's richest man, has acknowledged playing a role as middleman in the initial stages of U.S. secret arms sales to Iran.

Magazine interview

In a magazine interview published on Thursday Mr. Khashoggi was quoted as saying the United States told Iraq in 1980 that if it attacked Iran, the Tehran government would fall.

The Paris-based, Arabic-language magazine Al Watan Al Arabi also quoted Mr. Khashoggi as saying his motives in the recent U.S. arms shipments to Iran were aimed strictly at ending the Gulf war.

"The vindictive Americans were primarily bent on avenging the hostages issue," Mr. Khashoggi said, referring to the seizure of Americans at the U.S. embassy in Tehran.

The Americans pushed things left and right, creating the impression it (the war) would be over in only two months."

The magazine did not disclose where the interview was conducted.

They quoted Mr. Khashoggi as saying the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had persuaded Iraq that, once the war began, the Iranian army would topple the government of

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

He contended that the recent secret contacts between Washington and Tehran, through him and others, were not originally supposed to produce any U.S. arms shipments to Iran.

The intention at that stage, he claimed, was to seek avenues for a peace dialogue with Tehran, with the focus on means of ending the protracted Gulf war.

Mr. Khashoggi said he was first approached by Iranian merchant Manucher Ghorbanifar in Hamburg in the summer of 1985, who told him a moderate group in the Tehran leadership wanted to open a dialogue with the "Arab side" to end the Gulf war.

Mr. McFarlane and the young Rafsanjani arranged a \$5-million deal for about 1,000 Tow missiles and spare parts for Hawk missiles, Mr. Khashoggi said.

The arms were shipped to Tehran, precipitating an anti-Rafsanjani furor by extremists who distributed leaflets condemning the deal as a sellout, he said.

Meeting with Peres

In the interview, Mr. Khashoggi also said that he had acted as an intermediary between former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian leaders. He said that he first met Peres in Venezuela about five years ago and knew him well.

The businessman did not say when his mission took place or give the name of the official, apparently a leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), who he said had asked him to meet the Israeli prime minister.

"We spoke together on the basis that the two sides (Israel and the PLO) should recognise each other," he said, adding that it was planned that such an agreement should be placed in a Swiss bank for safe keeping.

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17:00 Special Feature
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18:00 News Summary
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King: Consensus emerging over need for international conference

PARIS (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said in an interview published in Paris that there is almost a total consensus over the need to tackle the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine problem through an international conference to be attended by all parties to the conflict and the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

In an interview with the Al Sharq radio station in Paris, the King said that France, along with its European allies, could play a major role in bringing about a just settlement to the problem through the proposed conference and through its influence on world affairs. The United States, the King noted, realises Jordan's position which is clear and frank, adding that "we have conveyed this stand to U.S. envoy Richard Murphy and told him that the only means of attaining peace lies through the proposed international conference."

King Hussein went on to say that Jordan has already turned down American suggestions for

preparatory committee meetings prior to the proposed conference because he said the current situation cannot tolerate further procrastination as it is becoming more dangerous and explosive.

King Hussein said that preparations for the conference could be made through dialogue between Security Council member nations who could also make arrangements and fix a date for such an international parley.

In the interview, the King reiterated Jordan's stand that under no circumstances could the Kingdom serve as a substitute for the Palestinian people who, he said, should take an active part in the peace making process. "None can convince me that a solution to the problem can be achieved without the participation of the Palestinian people in the coming conference," the King asserted.

King Hussein said that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) remains the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, "and we hope



that this organisation will truly reflect and represent the aspirations of its people and allow the people to express their views about their fate."

Although political coordination with the PLO leadership has been suspended, Jordan will continue to extend assistance to the Palestinian people in the occupied territory as Jordan has been

doing ever since the 1967 occupation, King Hussein noted.

He said that Jordan's support for the Palestinians is a national duty and conforms to pan-Arab policies and national security. "The door will remain open, however, for the resumption of dialogue with the PLO for supporting the Palestinian people, provided the PLO leadership is convinced that the dialogue should be comprehensive and should continue from the point where the previous talks left off," King Hussein said.

In reply to a question about U.S. arms sales to Iran, the King said that this subject came up in his talks with French leaders along with the other issues of concern to the Middle East region. "I have expressed my views directly to the United States about this affair, and have told Washington that the United States' credibility resulting from the U.S.-Iran arms deal has been affected to a great extent," King Hussein said.

With regard to the Iran-Iraq war, he said, that Iraq is only defending its territory and the Arab nation at large, and noted that Iran has also been responding favourably to all peace bids to end the conflict, but that Iran has been adamant in its position and is determined to continue the fighting. For this reason, Washington's supply of arms to Iran is something which is difficult to understand, specially as such moves contradict with official American policy, the King stressed.

King Hussein reaffirmed his own endeavours for re-establishing solidarity among Arab countries and towards building a unified Arab stand, and said this is required to defend the Arab World and future Arab generations.

On the situation in Lebanon, the King said that it was a "great tragedy," and he expressed hope that the concerned parties in the conflict would find a means of reaching peace that would safeguard Lebanon's independence and sovereignty.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Former Senator, Abu Tayeh, laid to rest

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad and Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, took part in the funeral of Sheikh Mohammad Abu Tayeh, a former member of the Upper House of Parliament who died on Wednesday at the age of 77. The late Mr. Tayeh was buried in the Royal cemetery on Thursday afternoon. The funeral was also attended by speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali, Cabinet members and other senior officials.

JEA to electrify 10 villages in Karak

KARAK (Petra) — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) will supply electricity to 10 villages in Karak Governorate during this year, according to the JEA Karak district manager Yousef Al Smadi. He said that this is part of a new rural electrification project for the south of Jordan.

WAJ delegation leaves for Tokyo

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian delegation has left for Tokyo for talks with Japanese government officials on cooperation in the development of water resources in Jordan. The delegation, led by Mr. Mahmoud Talhouni, secretary general of the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), will discuss studies conducted by a Japanese firm for exploiting water resources in Wadi Al Mujib, near Karak, in southern Jordan. The delegation will also make a tour of dams, water and sewerage projects and wastewater treatment plants in a number of Japanese cities.

Court sentences hashish trafficker

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Mohammad Tayem Dahash to one-year imprisonment with hard labour and fined him JD 5,000 for trafficking hashish. The general military governor endorsed the sentence.

CBJ issues foreign exchange regulations

AMMAN (Petra) — Banks and financial institutions will no longer be allowed to sell foreign currencies to locally-registered money exchangers except in the form of bank notes or coins, in accordance with new regulations issued on Thursday by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ). Under the regulations, effective as of Saturday, money exchange departments in banks and financial institutions will be subject to control regulations of foreign currencies in accordance with a 1978 law.

Hamzeh heads for Geneva after talks in London

LONDON (Petra) — Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh on Friday left London for Geneva to attend the meetings of the World Health Organisation's (WHO's) executive council scheduled to be held next week.

In London, Dr. Hamzeh held talks with the assistant under-secretary of the British Foreign Ministry on means to further improve Jordanian-British relations. During the meeting, the British official voiced his country's readiness to cooperate with Jordan in medical and health fields especially the introduction of a health insurance scheme in Jordan. The British official commanded Jordanian-British ties and said Britain was ready to contribute towards implementing medical projects in Jordan.

Dr. Hamzeh also visited the Alexander Fleming premises where he was received by the director of international relations and the director of health insurance at the Ministry of Health.

Dr. Hamzeh's lengthy talks with the two British officials focused on issues related to health insurance coverage in Britain as well as medical services.

Both sides reviewed the British experience in health insurance in England as well as the responsibilities of the British Health Ministry regarding all medical coverage.

Dr. Hamzeh later made a tour of the construction work and projects section at the British Ministry of Health where he was briefed on the various activities and responsibilities of the section.

The health minister also visited one of London's main hospitals which has been specially designed to reduce energy consumption by 50 per cent.

Jordan monitoring desert locust swarms

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior Ministry of Agriculture source on Friday said that desert locusts, which have crossed into the Arabian peninsula from Sudan, posed no potential threat to Jordan and added the Kingdom was coordinating with all concerned countries on a regular basis to gather all possible information on the movements of the swarm.

The source was commenting on a U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) report which said that Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Kuwait and Iran may soon be affected by waves of desert locusts which are breeding at alarming rates in Sudan.

The source told the Jordan Times that this breeding occurs every year and that the numerous anti-locust teams are scrapping to control the swarms in the Saudi coastal areas before they disperse into the centre of the vast desert region, according to a report reaching the Jordan Times.

Jordan to attend Arab talks on education and science

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the fourth general conference of the national Arab committees for education, culture and science which will be scheduled to open on Sunday in Doha.

On the agenda of the five-day conference are working papers submitted by Jordan, Qatar, Kuwait, Morocco, Iraq and the Arab Educational Bureau of the Gulf States. The papers deal with proposals and suggestions for promoting the work of national Arab committees and means of developing relations between these committees and world cultural and educational organisations.

Among the topics tackled in

campaigns launched to combat the locusts have not managed to eradicate the swarms.

However, the report said that if the locusts get out of control, they could reach as far as India and Pakistan.

The FAO report said that 15 aircraft have sprayed wide areas of northern and western Sudan for weeks but at least 100 small swarms have not been controlled.

A locust swarm can cover more than 2.6 square kilometres with 50 million insects, each five centimetres long and capable of destroying 100 tonnes of vegetation a day.

Anti-locust teams are scrapping to control the swarms in the Saudi coastal areas before they disperse into the centre of the vast desert region, according to a report reaching the Jordan Times.

the papers are cooperation between national Arab committees in Africa, the implementation of regional and semi-regional projects as well as bolstering cooperation with the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (IESCO).

The conference will also discuss translating UNESCO researches and studies in the educational, cultural and scientific fields into Arabic as well as supporting the use of Arabic language at UNESCO.

Dr. Michael Dabahneh, director of the UNESCO section at the Ministry of Education, will represent Jordan in the conference.

Tree planting season underway after Arbor Day celebrations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arbor Day celebrations were held in Jordan on Thursday when thousands of fruit and forest tree saplings were planted by citizens, organisations and schools to be planted in different regions. The Ministry of Agriculture runs 12 nurseries which produce an average of seven million saplings a year.

At least nine million saplings were produced by Ministry of Agriculture nurseries last year and these will be supplied to Jordanian citizens, organisations and schools to be planted in different regions. The Ministry of Agriculture runs 12 nurseries which produce an average of seven million saplings a year.

25,000 trees planted in Greater Amman

In the Greater Amman region, 25,000 tree saplings were planted in a number of regions around the capital. A municipality spokesman said that 2,500 fruit and forest trees were planted near an army garden between Raghdan and Al Nasra bridges in east Amman, 2,000 more in the Basma area and 2,500 others on slopes overlooking the 'Ain Ghazal area. He said that 3,000 saplings were planted in a number of regions on Jabal Al Taj, Mahmud Qudah wood, Al Nasra Club, and Hamdan. At least

2,000 trees were also planted at Yarmouk region around Jofe and Khaled Ibn Al Walid gardens and 2,500 at Jabal Zuhour and Ras Al Ain, 2,000 on Jabal Amman, 3,000 along Ibn Sina street and 2,500 saplings near the public cemetery.

Other celebrations were held in Wadi Seer, Jawa and Khreibet Al Souq to the south of the capital where at least 3,000 trees were planted. School children, scouts and different organisations took part in the celebrations.

In Zarqa, 3,000 tree saplings were planted near the community college at a ceremony attended by government officials and large crowds. There were other planting ceremonies in Azraq, Bierien and Jerash.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb attended a tree planting celebration held by the Armed Forces in Amman. This was attended by senior army officers.

He voiced particular interest in the Zarqa River Basin Project and stressed his desire to meet all those responsible for the project so that he could familiarise himself with the progress in implementing the scheme.

Prince Hassan was briefed by Mr. Tayseer Shabat, who heads the Amman afforestation department, about the department's tree planting programme for this year.

Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hinoud, who attended the celebrations, said in a statement to the press that upon directives from His Majesty King Hussein greater attention is being given this year to planting fruit trees, mostly olive trees, rather than forest trees wherever possible. This is being done in order to achieve the maximum exploitation of available land and to help achieve food security.

Hundreds of boys scouts and school children took part in the tree planting celebration which was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Cabinet members, senior government officials and high ranking army officers in addition to heads of diplomatic missions in Jordan and a large crowd of citizens.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Thursday plants a tree at a site near the Queen Alia International Airport during a celebration to mark Arbor Day (Petra photo)

Israel proposes ceasefire

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. McDonough told the council he hoped the death "would at least serve to focus the attention of all concerned on the causal, almost arbitrary dispensing of death."

Meanwhile the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia said it killed three guerrillas during the night near the town of Jezzine in South Lebanon, and reported a fresh clash with Shi'ite Muslim gunmen Friday.

An SLA spokeswoman told Reuters an SLA patrol opened fire on an armed group as they were setting an explosive charge on a road used by both civilian and military traffic, just inside the Israeli-declared buffer zone.

It was not yet certain to which group the guerrillas belonged, but she said the pro-Iranian Hezbollah was presumed to be behind the attack.

The Shi'ite Muslim fundamentalists group has been fighting the SLA and also attacked U.N. peacekeeping forces in last October.

The trip comes at a time when Israel's image in the United States has been tarnished by reports of its role in setting up the controversial U.S. arms sales to Iran.

The prime minister's message to his own party faithful, however, seems more intransigent.

He told a meeting of Likud activists last week he would not yield the West Bank and Gaza, in exchange for peace, and said Israel would not give up "one gram of its rights."

Mr. Shamir said Israel would never speak to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), even if it endorsed U.N. resolutions recognising Israel's right to exist and renounced armed struggle, making it an acceptable partner to the United States.

Disputing reports of a deadlock, Mr. Shamir said this week's Middle East tour by U.S. envoy Richard Murphy "demonstrates that something is moving."

"There is permanent progress towards peace," he said, citing improved relations with Egypt.

The prime minister dismissed a recent wave of Palestinian unrest, in which four Arab youths were killed and dozens wounded, as "small incidents" but said the time was not right for free elections in the occupied territories.

Meanwhile a public opinion poll published Friday indicated a sharp drop in the popularity of Israel's coalition government since Mr. Shamir became prime minister three months ago.

According to the poll, 46 per cent of those questioned thought the coalition government was doing a good job overall, down 16 per cent from a similar survey published in September 1986.

The poll, published after 1,200 Israelis were surveyed between Dec. 24 and Jan. 4, was carried out by the respected Smith Institute for Davar newspaper.

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VIEW FROM AMMAN

By Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber

The Iran-Iraq war: The dream and the reality

THE Iran-Iraq war is an example par excellence of a situation where man's passions overtake his reason blinding him to the damage he is doing not only to others but ultimately to himself as well. This past week Iran launched its twenty seventh major attack since the commencement of hostilities seven years ago. As is the case with any war where one of the combatants thinks he is fighting for a historic mission, a sacred cause or a matter of destiny, the war is bound to escalate in its ferociousness and destruction. On January 11, 1987 Iraq was forced to attack the city of Qom, the residence of the Imam Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini; a step calculated to inflict not only physical but mental damage and spiritual anguish as well. Over the years this seemingly endless, and to many irrational conflict, has escalated to a total war. It was bound to escalate considering the Iranian view that it is a total war, not a limited one, the Iraqi initial view. From border clashes to military campaigns and incursions into each other's territories it escalated to blockades, then to inflicting damage on economic installations and then it degenerated into the final escalation of hitting civilian targets. Each blow on a civilian target deepens the wound of animosity and hatred and calls for revenge.

The damage done to the soul of the area, especially the belligerents, cannot be calculated nor will it be repaired quickly. Some Western writers have already begun calling it, callously, the "forgotten war". How can it be forgotten in a region that forgets nothing? A region where the tragedies of centuries ago are still celebrated with fierce passion as if they happened yesterday? This latest Iranian attack on Iraq is called Karbala Five, harking back to the martyrdom of the Imam Al Hussein at the town of Karbala in 680 A.D. This day of terrible morning, Ashura falls on the tenth of

Muharram in the Islamic Hijra calendar. Surely it is calculated to arouse passion and to awaken hatreds. Against all the precepts of logic, neighbourliness even religious ties, Iran refuses to bring the conflict to an honorable conclusion. It is as if the whole region is galloping into a dark cave. And, where once it held enormous wisdom and timeless beauty, it seems as if it degenerated into sterility and loss of hope; as if too preoccupied in preserving, indeed resurrecting the past, instead of looking towards the future.

It is an unusual conflict partly because it has no beauty or elegance in it and partly because it has no cause, though Iran thinks it does have one. Several factors contribute to the uniqueness of this conflict, chief among them is the fact that it is between two developing nations that should be developing not destroying. Between two neighbours that share a common religious heritage and have broken bread and eaten salt with each other. Secondly because of its unusually long duration and especially because it is between two Third World nations. Thirdly because it has escalated to such proportions that its continuation has truly become another strategic goal of Israel. A few weeks ago minister Ariel Sharon remarked that it will be a catastrophe if Iran won the war but a greater calamity if Iraq won. On another later occasion he added that Israel hopes the war will go on forever, and if it must end, it should end with no winner and no loser; and if there must be a loser it is better if it were Iraq.

In retrospect the view of the war by the combatants was radically different: Iraq hoped it would be a limited one whereas Iran thought of it as a total war giving it a historic opportunity to resurrect the ancient glory of Iran. This, among many other factors help explain the fierceness of the consecutive Iranian attacks. It is

also an unusual conflict in view of the volume of human and material losses it has thus far entailed. The psychological barriers it is erecting, on top of the old ones, add another dimension to its uniqueness and this in a region that still carries the scars of past like badges of honour or passports to the future: a region that still clings to what it considers immutable truths though the realities are constantly changing. It is a unique, though a dreadful conflict. Consider that it is fought in one of the most strategic locations in the world, a region that also happens to be the source, indeed the major spring of energy, a region considered very vital by the world powers, the super and those not so super, and yet no serious attempt has been made to bring the conflict to a conclusion. Why?

And why is Iran so adamant in even contemplating or allowing serious contemplation by others, to bring the conflict to a settlement? Many observers believe that this last major attack, Karbala Five, was designed to undermine beforehand any serious consideration by the organisation of Islamic conference to be held later this month in Kuwait. This may indeed be the case, although it is not an altogether satisfactory answer. This leaves us with the question of what Iran really wants. Truly, what does Iran want? Living in the heart of conflicting dramas often causes one to lose sight of what is now happening and what is sought in the future. As the duration of the conflict is stretched beyond all logical proportions the answer may be a simple one: Iran of today wants the empire of yesterday. And why not if one operates from a millennial vantage point and thinks the sacrifice, however enormous, and the suffering, however bad, is worth the cause. For those, especially those out of step with their times, the dream which to others may be the nightmare, is the ultimate reality.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Conditions for a just peace

IN an interview with the Al Sharq radio station in Paris, King Hussein said the international community should implement the U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and should reach a permanent and just solution for the Palestine problem. This statement implies that negotiations at an international conference are not an objective by themselves though they are being held under U.N. auspices. The objective of such conference is reaching an international formula for the implementation of the two resolutions and settling the Palestine problem. This statement has come to expose Israel's propaganda campaign with which it is trying to convince the world that negotiations between the Arabs and Israel should not be tied to pre-conditions or resolutions. With this Israel tries to convince the world that the negotiations should not be under any conditions and for this reason Tel Aviv has been rejecting the idea of an international conference which is primarily aimed at implementing U.N. resolutions. Israel wants negotiations without a limited aim and tasks that can help it achieve its own objectives. But we are relieved to feel that the European Community has become convinced of the need for an international conference to bring about a lasting peace and end Israel's occupation of Arab land.

Al Dustour: Jordan campaigns for peace

KING Hussein's speeches delivered in the French capital and his talks with European leaders centered among other things on the Iran-Iraq war and its grave consequences on the Middle East region as a whole. The King's concern over the situation was reflected in an official Jordanian statement Thursday in which this country voiced support for the United Nations secretary general's call for a Security Council session to discuss the Gulf war. Jordan has since the very beginning of the war realised that this conflict will benefit the enemies of the Arab and Muslim countries because it drains away their resources and their power. Jordan has therefore backed the U.N. call as a fresh bid to find a solution to the conflict. The United Nations, among other organisations worldwide, had tried without success so far to end the conflict and the tragedy and it is hoped that the Security Council will now embark on a new course of action that would lead to a settlement. U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has called for a meeting of wise people who, he said, can put an end to the bloodshed and the continuous loss of life. In his talks with French leaders King Hussein referred to the Gulf War as the second serious threat to world peace and pointed to Iraq's acceptance of all peace bids and to Iran's rejection of initiatives to end the war.

Sawt Al Shaab: Campaigning for real peace

KING Hussein is acting as a light in the dark, trying amidst of a weak Arab situation and a near to collapse in Arab solidarity to make the nation rise once again. The King has been calling for a unity of action and for the establishment of real peace. In Paris, as he did in other European capitals and in Asia and everywhere he has visited, the King has made his voice heard loud and clear, calling for real peace. In his statement to the *Le Monde* newspaper and Monte Carlo Radio, King Hussein again spoke of the Jordanian effort to convene an international conference that can achieve the aspirited peace. The Soviet Union, France and other countries have backed the call for such conference which is designed to implement U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and can find a lasting settlement for the Palestine problem. But against the King's endeavours Israel has been calling for the convening of a preparatory committee to prepare for the international conference and for direct negotiations between the Arabs and Israel while at the same time it continues to carry out aggression on Arab countries, and to receive support for its actions from the United States. However hard Israel tries to dissuade the world from the idea of an international conference it cannot succeed in its attempt despite U.S. backing.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: King paves the way

NOW that King Hussein's visit to France has ended, one can say that the ground has been paved for the first step towards convening an international peace conference on the Middle East. The visit secured France's total support for proposed conference and helped to foil Israel's drive to dissuade Europe from helping to convene the international parley. King Hussein was quite frank in issuing warning for the United States against producing another alternative to the idea of the peace conference because, he said, such idea would end in failure. We should also point out that the European role is considered vital for convincing the United States in accepting the idea of this conference and also in taking active part in it. The French prime minister has promised to involve his country in such an affair and to prepare a suitable climate for the conference. King Hussein's visit to Europe is to be regarded as a fresh and serious attempt in preparing the ground for a lasting peace in the Middle East region. The Arab countries will no doubt benefit from the development, since it will break the deadlock in the search for a solution to their major problem.

Sawt Al Shaab: Jordan ensures EC support

THE international conference which has been called for by Jordan and which has been supported by numerous peace loving nations is one which will be comprehensive and therefore bound to yield a lasting and honourable peace. The idea of the conference has become acceptable and clear for the international community and this situation has assumed more significance with the King's visit to France where he discussed the subject with French leaders. But unfortunately this endeavour is being confronted with a U.S.-Israeli attempt to undermine the idea of an international conference simply for the sake of enabling Israel to liquidate the Palestine problem and implement Zionist plans in the Arab region. As Jordan is escalating its efforts for the convening of an international conference the United States and Israel continue to obstruct such efforts by proposing preparatory meetings and direct negotiations between the parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict. This attempt was clear in a recent mission to the Middle East carried out by U.S. envoy Richard Murphy who failed to achieve anything for his administration. The United States has been adopting Israel's views and striving to bring about direct negotiations that can lead only to partial agreements which in turn would perpetuate Israel's occupation of Palestinian land and enable Israel to drive out the Arab people from their homeland.

Deng's reforms exorcise Mao

After surviving its worst economic crisis yet, Deng Xiaoping's government has kept modernisation on the road in China and started new reforms. But when the elderly leader goes, the try-it-and-see attitude which has worked so well might go too. Colm MacDonagh weighs up the chances for China.

WHEN the history of post-Mao China comes to be written, 1986 could be seen as the year when Deng Xiaoping's leadership fought a decisive battle against its opponents. After last year surviving the worst economic crisis since it came to power, it has kept modernisation on the road, started new reforms and above all been seen to keep cool in the face of criticism.

In foreign affairs, it has brought the relationship with its neighbour the Soviet Union to the point where a healing of the 26-year-old split has begun to look possible. Though China responded cautiously to Mikhail Gorbachev's Vladivostok speech in July, trade and other contacts with the USSR are rising.

Today, Peking's foreign policy is to maintain good relations on the widest front so that modernisation at home can proceed undisturbed.

Deng's final and biggest problem, that of the succession, is yet to come. Even leaders of his choice (and he may not be able to choose) will have difficulty keeping the reform momentum going, because none of them have his commanding influence. And the reform itself may, like last year, generate difficulties which will reverse the programme.

The much-touted legal system, though better than the vacuum which preceded it, does not provide justice as viewed in the West. The traditional notion that anyone in the hands of the law must be guilty lingers on, and there seems little chance at a trial of adequate defence. Torture by the police is widespread, according to senior law officials reported in the Chinese media.

Although the government has the economy under control, there are underlying problems which it has not solved. The key issue of how to give factory managers more power without sending the economy off the rails remains to be solved.

If in future the reform goes badly wrong — such as producing high inflation — there could be popular demand for a return to the old stable, if unproductive, centrally-planned system. This would be disastrous, since central planning has already shown itself incapable of meeting China's needs.

Deng is sitting on unpredictable social issues which could explode at any time. One is high-level corruption, less overt than in its 1985 heyday but still manifest even to outsiders in the way senior officials' relatives are promoted or given trips to the West.

This will lead to the question, what will be the role of the party? Professor Zhao indicated that defining it could mean establishing a "checks and balances" system, though he believed this "will need years to take shape."

Even in the economy, new reforms like the sale of bonds and shares and the introduction of contract labour instead of lifelong employment have taken off. And the vigour of the private economy sector is impressive. The free market in Lanzhou, capital of Gansu province, for example, has become a trade centre for China.

Villagers from Lanzhou's suburbs flag their privately-purchased trucks hundreds of miles to Sichuan or Qinghai to buy oranges or fish. Traders from far-off provinces come with clothing or furniture, to sell on Lanzhou's streets. This is increasingly different from the original notion of a local farmer selling his own eggs or cabbage in the nearest city.

Maybe Deng should use his last years in an effort to consolidate his reform by making sure that education gets the money it needs to turn out skilled and innovative people — Financial Times feature.

Reagan under pressure as talks resumeBy William Scally
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Superpower nuclear arms talks resumed Thursday in Geneva with a badly weakened Reagan administration under congressional pressure to make progress.

Moscow has been signalling publicly that it wants to talk seriously — but analysts say it is looking for flexibility on Washington's part, while chief U.S. negotiator Max Kampelman says he is taking no new initiatives to the Geneva talks.

The latest round, expected to run about six weeks, follows negotiations over the last 22 months and two U.S.-Soviet summits that have left unresolved the key dispute over President Reagan's "Star Wars" missile defence programme.

Spending on the programme, officially called the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), and on Reagan's \$312 billion defence

budget is under attack in Congress where newly assertive Democrats — who now control both houses for the first time since Reagan took office in 1981 — are pressing for movement on arms control.

On top of this, the arms-forces scandal has diminished the political power which enabled Reagan to launch the biggest U.S. military buildup in peace-time history and to dominate the arms control agenda until now.

It has also caused an upheaval in his National Security Council (NSC), shaken last November by the resignation of then-director John Poindexter and the firing of his aide, Marine Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North, amid revelations that U.S. arms had been sold secretly to Iran and proceeds diverted to U.S.-backed "contra" rebels in Nicaragua.

The NSC has yet to settle down under its new director, Frank Carlucci, who inherits the task of mediating between the State and

Defence Departments on arms control questions.

Analysts say Moscow is carefully watching Reagan's crisis on the Iran-contra issue and is likely to tailor its policies accordingly.

"They are serious about talking, which does not mean they would offer the president a helping hand," Dmitry Simes, a Soviet expert with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said in an interview.

Simes said Moscow would be ready to explore any U.S. flexibility.

"Particularly during the Iran-contra affair, they will go out of their way not to sound positive and optimistic unless they got something from the president."

Kampelman was named State Department counselor, an elevation in status that officials said might impress on the Soviet side that Washington was giving more weight to the negotiator's job.

The Soviet Union, while emphasising readiness to talk, has sounded pessimistic about relations with the United States.

Jordan's Ambassador to Italy Tareq Madi.

Mr. Madi also held a separate meeting with Mr. Andreotti on Thursday in which they discussed world issues in general and developments in the Middle East region in particular.

King Hussein and Queen Noor arrived here from Paris at the invitation of the Italian President and Mrs. Cossiga, and are scheduled to have an audience with Pope John Paul in Vatican on Saturday.

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Central Tenders No. (11/87, 12/87)
AQABA BACK-ROAD PROJECT

It is expected that the Jordanian Government will receive loans from Saudi Fund for Development, to finance partially the above-mentioned project, and the Ministry of Public Works is hereby inviting bids from prequalified local, Arab and foreign companies and joint ventures according to the following:

(1)- Project Description:
The project consists of two sections:

Section (A) (Tender No. 11/87) which includes a separate grade interchange and 15 km. Main road connecting Wadi Yutum to the Spur Intersection, and 6 km. spur to the Coastal Highway. It also includes (6) bridges.

Approximate quantities: (4) mill. cu.m. earthwork and (20,000) cu.m. reinforced concrete.

Section (B) (Tender No. 12/87) which includes 11 km. of Main road ending at the Coastal Highway near Wadi 2, and the flood protection channel of Wadi 2, and an interchange.

Approximate quantities: (3) mill. cu.m. earthwork and (5,000) cu.m. reinforced concrete and (130,000) cu.m. Gabions.

(2)- The cost of the tender document will be a non-refundable sum of JD 1,000 for the first copy and JD 300 for the second copy.

(3)- The deadline for obtaining tender documents from the Ministry of Public Works in Amman is March 14th, 1987.

(4)- The tender is divided into two sections and award will be according to the decision of the Central Tenders Committee.

No stipulation or condition from any tenderer for the award of the two sections together will be accepted.

(5)- Tenders shall be submitted to the Government Tenders Directorate in Amman not later than 12:00 noon on Saturday, March 28th, 1987.

Chairman,
Central Tenders Committee
P.O. Box 1220

Khatib returns from Syria

(Continued from page 1)

positions.

Mr. Khatib said: "Jordan believes solidarity among Arab countries and coordination in their efforts should continue so that efforts for convening an international conference on the Middle East can succeed."

He said that Italy was sceptical about the possibilities at present of an international peace conference and said many problems needed to be resolved before this kind of meeting could take place.

In his dinner speech Thursday, the King said the longer Israel occupied the Arab territories the more regional and international difficulties increased, with the Middle East conflict taking new forms such as terrorism.

He said terrorism should not be allowed to take attention away from the region's fundamental problems and that the essence of the conflict was the necessity for Israel to end occupation.

The King added that because of Izzat's obstinacy and tension between superpowers, an international peace conference was currently impossible. "Such

positions attacked by the Iranians appeared to have little strategic significance."

"Fighting in the Basra sector continued, although the Iraqis have stopped the Iranian forward thrust," he said. But he added that "Iran still maintains its modest territorial gains in the area."

Asked if the committee would again visit Damascus and Beirut, he said: "This will be decided in the light of contacts to be made by the committee and the Arab League secretariat in Tunis."

In Tehran, Iran's top war spokesman said Friday that seizing Basra was not the aim of a week-long offensive.

"Entering Basra is no problem. It is possible for us to choose a narrow corridor and go ahead, but this is not the aim," Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told worshippers at Tehran's mass Friday prayer meeting.

But he added: "We should settle accounts with Iraq near Basra... this is where the fate of the war should be determined."

Reuter

Scattered notes for scattered times

It has been a while since I last wrote. That is due to several reasons. The fact that I got lazy, or busy as I prefer to call it, coupled with the frustration out of not publishing several of my articles, left me out of the writing cycle for some time.

I am not a professional writer. I therefore do not possess the ability of sitting down and writing an article whenever one is due. I am drawn in what I write by my feelings, and if these happen not to coincide at the time with those of the editor, I cannot switch them off and think of another subject. I have thus continuously failed my editor's request to avoid sensitive subjects at times and resort to "safe" ones that would not offend anybody. I have tried several times in the past to preserve the continuity of my column by assuring that one appears every two weeks regardless of the degree of emotional support I had for it. I have never felt comfortable with that idea, however. There are several things one does that become part of one's routine, but I hope writing will never become one of these things for me. Unless of course, I want to make a living out of it!

A writer has a definite responsibility to keep a minimum level of continuity with his readership. The fact is, however, that if he is directly or indirectly, but

constantly, kept from voicing his views, he might either get frustrated and give up the whole process, or, more dangerously, start resorting to tangential subjects that lack substance and are of little importance to society.

That is a trap that is difficult not to fall into. But I do believe that one should try one's best not to abandon important subjects and choose less controversial ones just because the latter subjects are more "publishable." Otherwise, the quality of this whole process of exchange of ideas will suffer drastically.

A few days ago, the city of Salt's municipality demolished a small cafe at the entrance of the city as part of a "beautification" scheme. "Al-Minghribi" Cafe is only about forty years old, but it symbolises the meeting place of many of Jordan's modern day politicians who helped shape the country since the 1940's, when the secondary school at Salt was one of the few leading learning centres in the Kingdom. At a time when we keep boasting about our history and tradition, we find ourselves unable to preserve a small cafe that holds some important seeds of the growth of a nation.

And while different voices rose in protest of such a puzzling decision, none could result in an organised effort to save the cafe from destruction.

Al-Minghribi Cafe is a thing of the past now. I suggest, however, that parliament enact a law preserving monuments of national importance from shortsighted decisions such as the one taken by the Salt municipality. Nations around the world spend fortunes to save their national monuments. I am positive that with just a little more money, an alternative solution could have been implemented that would have left Al-Minghribi Cafe standing today. Unfortunately for both the city of Salt and Jordan, that is not the case today.

Recently, I attended a computer conference held in Amman to discuss national issues related to computer applications in Jordan. During the conference I was intrigued by several observations about people's behaviour.

One observation which was very interesting was that few people know how to present their subject. Regard-

less of the level of competency of the speakers, I noticed very few who could deliver a clear presentation on their subject of expertise. Most speakers either simply read the whole paper they had to present, or fell short of establishing a clear framework from which they could go into details. Instead, presentations came largely scattered, unorganized, narrow, and lacking a general perspective.

Almost none of the speakers stuck to the time allotted to him. Even though every one knew exactly how much time they were given, few seemed to have rehearsed their presentations earlier, and many did not seem to mind taking more time even after repeated reminders from the sessions' chairmen.

This is due, I think, to a lack of a manager's view among us in general, and among our professionals in particular. We do not seem to have, on the middle management level, enough competency in a system's approach to problems that looks at details only as part of a general framework rather than as an end in itself. I hope that the Royal Committee for Administrative Reform would look at this problem seriously and provide training programmes for our middle managers on proper management tools.

Talking straight

Marwan Muasher

Documentaries on JTV: Highly informative, relevant and timely

By Sama Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "The Africans", a documentary series presently being screened on JTV, has provoked great controversy in Europe, the United States, and the Third World.

The nine-hour series discusses the influence of Islam and the West on Africa and their impact on its culture throughout the continent's history. Presented by Ali Masi, professor of political science at the University of Michigan, research professor at the University of Jos in Nigeria, and author of more than a dozen books on Africa, the series portrays an insider's colourful view of Africa, its inhabitants, and its culture before and after the arrival of outsiders. A picture of the conflict between indigenous and modern-day African culture and values and political confrontations affecting the continent are faithfully projected in the BBC production.

Although there are nine episodes of "The Africans," only eight will be presented by JTV. The ninth episode was not delivered to JTV because of a lawsuit filed by an African leader against the BBC, and the case is still in court.

That episode discusses how slave trade had a lasting impact on African communities. It set villages against village, and tribe against tribe, and allowed certain campes to become rich and ruthless by trading humans for guns. The episode also shows how Europeans had exploited the natural wealth of Africa. It presents the view that "Africa did more to help the development of the West than the other way round. Centres of population grew up around the mines, ports and railway terminals, starting a process of urbanisation which took the indigenous people away from agriculture and into the harsh realities of city life," according to the documentary's

promotion leaflet.

"It is not an easy job to choose a good documentary because many of them may mean nothing to JTV audience," said Fatme Masi, head of the foreign programmes selection at JTV since 1985. "I try to select documentaries that are up-to-date and that are related to current events in the region," she told the Jordan Times.

M. Masi, who has been working with JTV since 1969, said that she tries to choose series that would not only interest Jordanians, but also foreigners who live here, and others in neighbouring countries where JTV is received, such as Syria, the West Bank, Palestine, and South Lebanon. "It's important to choose varied, informative and educa-

tional documentaries because TV is a major media tool that most people depend on for understanding modern problems," Ms. Masi added.

Each year Ms. Masi travels to London, Cannes and Monte Carlo where TV productions from all over the world are exhibited. This gives her a chance to see previews of new programmes, get new ideas, and to make new contacts, "especially with the small produc-

tions documentaries because TV is a major media tool that most people depend on for understanding modern problems," Ms. Masi added.

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The Africans — Wednesdays at 9:10

superpowers. "End of Empire" is another 14-hour series which attracted much praise among world-wide critics. The documentary, which showed the British empire's decline and its ultimate overthrow by Asians and Africans, received a favourable reaction from the Jordanian viewers, and some of its parts were transmitted more than once in response to high public demand.

M. Masi stressed on the importance of audience reaction, and said that JTV needs to hear from the public what they think of the programmes. "We would like to receive more letters from our viewers telling us their opinions on the documentaries; otherwise we will never know what type of programmes they prefer," she asserted. She added that the documentaries are too expensive, and it may not be worth broadcasting a programme if people were not interested. Each documentary episode costs approximately \$600 on a one-year loan basis.

A memorable documentary that appeared during the past year was "The Four Horsemen," in two episodes. It shows the unnecessary suffering and despair of war, with specific emphasis on the major role played by the superpowers. "End of Empire" is another 14-hour series which attracted much praise among world-wide critics. The documentary, which showed the British empire's decline and its ultimate overthrow by Asians and Africans, received a favourable reaction from the Jordanian viewers, and some of its parts were transmitted more than once in response to high public demand.

"Architecture at the Crossroads" which ended recently, had a large approval by the viewers, and Her Majesty Queen Noor showed particular interest in the series, according to Ms. Masi. The programme penetrates into the main themes and tackles the worries that run through the world of modern-day architecture. "The Story of SOE" was also a success in Jordan. The

eight hour documentary portrays one of the most secret operations of World War II, and how Special Operations Executive promoted sabotage and guerrilla warfare in German-occupied countries.

"The Day the Universe Changed" is a new series that will soon be aired on JTV. The 10-hour documentary is presented by James Burke who had also wrote and narrated "Connections," which impressed a large number of viewers when it was screened several months ago. Furthermore, "The Mogul" is a new series that is expected to attract JTV audience.

Many JTV viewers interviewed by the Jordan Times said that they were very impressed with the documentaries because they were very recent and most of them were broadcast either at the same time as many countries in Europe and the U.S., or only shortly after.

JTV has many more controversial and worthwhile documentaries that will be aired on Channel 2.

The arbitrary colonial boundaries, which spread across the continent, divided some and controlled others. Within these artificial frontiers the urge to be free from the colonial yoke gained force, and exploded in the Mau Mau rebellion of 1953, which set the wheels in motion for the independence of Kenya.

Wed. — Jan. 21, 1987

8:30 Who's the Boss

9:10 New Doc. Series

The Day the Universe Changed

Each new scientific discovery has forced mankind to change many of its most treasured beliefs.

Now, writer-producer James Burke poses this question: if past views of the universe were valid for their times, is our current view any better, or is it just different? Filmed in exotic locations around the world, "The Day the Universe Changed" shows where today's perceptions came from — and offers a fascinating and challenging glimpse of where we may all be going.

10:20 Murder She Wrote

Mon. — Jan. 19, 1987

8:30 No Place Like Home

9:10 Sandokan

10:20 Special Programme

The Mogul

A doctor's life is disrupted by his meeting and loving a kooky girl who has family problems.

Fri. — Jan. 23, 1987

8:30 Thrill

9:10 Falcon Crest

Coriol of the Valley

10:20 Paradise Postponed

Loving in the Past

Henry and Agnes are in L.A. where Agnes becomes increasingly disillusioned with both Holly wood and Henry.

Martin and his wife invite some

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Navratilova and Mandlikova advance in Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia (Agencies) — Defending champion Martina Navratilova of the United States stayed on course toward her fourth women's singles title Friday in the \$1.65 million Australian Open tennis championships.

She breezed past compatriot Camille Benjamin 6-2, 6-1 in the third-round match at Kooyong.

Navratilova had to conquer not only Benjamin, but a freakish, gusty wind that made life unpleasant for all the players on the fifth day of the tournament.

Second-seeded Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia, the Australian Open champion in 1980, and third-seeded American Pam Shriver also scored straight sets victories to advance to the last 16.

English no. 4 Anne Hobbs upset 15th-seeded Australian Dianne Bastrat.

Navratilova, 30, took less than an hour to overpower former French Open semi-finalist Benjamin, a 20-year-old baseliner, who hit occasional passing shots but lacked the artillery to worry the top seed.

The powerful Czech-born left-hander will face either compatriot Beverley Bowes or Australian Janine Thompson in the fourth round.

Mandlikova, winner of the Brisbane Tournament earlier this month, overcame dropping her serve early in the first set to romp home 6-3, 6-2 against experienced but outgunned American Anne Smith.

Shriver, 24, was untroubled in defeating young South African Elma Reimach 6-2, 6-4, while Hobbs, 26, used chip and charge tactics to easily overcome veteran left-hander Bastrat 6-4, 6-2.

Sixth-seeded Bulgarian Manuela Maleeva had to struggle on an outside court before defeating the elegant Hungarian-born Swiss player Csilla Csereny 6-3, 6-7, 7-5.

In other third-round action on a day dominated by doubles matches, Swede Catarina Lindqvist, the 10th seed, recovered from a slow start to defeat French player Marie-Cristine Calleja 4-6, 6-1, 6-3, while vastly experi-

enced West German Sylvia Hanika ousted Akiko Kijimuta of Japan 6-3, 6-3.

Jo Durie, the lanky 14th seed from Britain, eased into the round of 16 and clinched a meeting with Shriver with a 6-1, 6-4 triumph over Austrian baseliner Judith Polzl.

Navratilova said she had seldom felt fresher going into a tournament.

"The conditions were difficult," she said. "It was hard to plan an attack and place the ball."

Shriver echoed Navratilova's comments on the wind.

"You just had to concentrate on every point out there," she said.

Becker wins

Boris Becker produced a

Australia wins test to break losing spell

SYDNEY (R) — Leg spin and the Sydney pitch again proved a winning combination for Australia's cricketers as they emerged from a long lean spell to beat England by 55 runs in a thrilling climax to the fifth and final test.

Where it was the wrist spin of Bob Holland that beguiled New Zealand here more than a year and 15 tests ago, the last time Australia won, on this occasion it was Peter Sleight who took the honours.

His five for 72 included the final act of the series when he clean bowled John Emburey with the last ball of the penultimate over to dismiss England for 264 on Thursday.

Australia's unrestrained joy at

the end was understandable even though it lost the series 2-1. The team was subjected to unrelenting criticism during 1986 when it failed to win a test and as captain Allan Border said: "It's a great relief to be in the winner's circle again — it was been a hard summer for us all."

Australia probably wishes it could take the Sydney Cricket Ground round the world with it. Not only was its last win here in November 1985 but 11 months earlier on the same ground the team scored a rare success over the West Indies. In each victory Holland took 10 wickets.

Sleight had already undermined the England second innings when he removed Chris Broad, later to be named man of the series.



20 TIME CHAMPION: Defending champion Al Faisali convincingly defeated Al Duffield 2-0 to win Jordan's Premier League title for the twentieth time in its history. The playoff game, played on Friday at Amman Stadium, was forced to a draw between the two teams at the close of the regular season. In the photo, Ibrahim Mustafa, captain of Al Faisali, scores his team's

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Goalkeeper dies from match injury

MALAGA, Spain (R) — Malaga goalkeeper Jose Gallardo died from a brain haemorrhage following a head injury suffered during a Spanish Second Division soccer match last December, a hospital statement said Thursday. Gallardo, who was 25, had been in a coma since undergoing an emergency operation eight days ago. He was carried off unconscious during a game against Celta de Vigo on Dec. 21 after an accidental clash with Celta's Brazilian striker Baltazar Morais. After a few days in hospital he was allowed home and appeared to be recovering well until the brain haemorrhage. The last Spanish professional footballer to die as a result of a soccer injury was Sevilla's Pedro Berzuzeo, who suffered a heart attack during a match 14 years ago.

Watford seeks warmer weather in Iceland

LONDON (R) — English First Division Watford is taking an unusual step to beat the freezing weather and keep in shape: the team is flying to Iceland for a game. After this Saturday's home game against Queen's Park Rangers was postponed Thursday, Watford took up an invitation to play a Reykjavik select side on a synthetic surface in the Icelandic capital this weekend. Nineteen English League matches have been postponed since Sunday because of heavy snow and sub-zero temperatures.

Bird named AP athlete of year

BOSTON (AP) — Larry Bird, who led the Boston Celtics to their 16th National Basketball Association title and became the first forward to win the league's most valuable player award three consecutive times, is the Associated Press male athlete of 1986. Bird outpolled fellow Boston athlete Roger Clemens, who was 24-4 en route to helping the Red Sox win the American League baseball pennant, and undefeated boxer Mike Tyson, who became the youngest world heavyweight champion. Bird, the first basketball player to win the award since it was started in 1931, was named on 60 of the 95 ballots received from a nationwide group of U.S. sports writers and broadcasters.

Swedish ice rink melts from cold

STOCKHOLM (R) — An ice hockey match had to be called off in Sweden because the ice rink melted, despite the fact that the country is suffering its coldest winter for decades, sports officials said. An embarrassed official said the cold weather was believed to have caused a malfunction in the equipment that kept the ice frozen in the indoor rink in central Sweden. About 1,000 disappointed spectators who turned up to watch the national league match between Mjolby south and Gislaved Wednesday night had to leave the hall when the ice melted down to the rink's concrete base.

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